

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An engine control system suited for use with an engine that outputs electrical power to a local load and is electrically connected to an electrical grid, the engine control system comprising:
 - a set point control operable to set an engine power output value;
 - a sensor operable to measure an electrical difference parameter between the engine and the electrical grid; and
 - a master control system operable to maintain the engine electrical power at about the engine power output value, the master control system also operable to vary the engine power output value to maintain the electrical difference parameter above a non-zero predetermined value.
2. (Original) The engine control system of claim 1, wherein the engine includes a combustion turbine that drives a synchronous generator.
3. (Currently Amended) The engine control system of claim 1, wherein the sensor is a current sensor and the electrical difference parameter is a flow of current between the electrical grid and the engine.
4. (Original) The engine control system of claim 3, wherein the flow of current passes in one of a first direction and a second direction.
5. (Original) The engine control system of claim 3, wherein the master control system varies the engine power output value to maintain the absolute value of the flow of current above 100 amps.
6. (Original) The engine control system of claim 3, wherein the master control system varies the engine power output value to maintain the absolute value of the flow of current above 500 amps.

7-30. (Cancelled).

31. (New) An engine control system suited for use with an engine that outputs electrical power to a local load and is electrically connected to an electrical grid, the engine generating power at a power output value, the load consuming power at a load value, the engine control system comprising:

a sensor operable to measure an electrical parameter indicative of a difference between the power output value and the load value; and

a master control system configured to vary the engine power output value to prevent the electrical parameter from reaching zero.

32. (New) The engine control system of claim 31, wherein the sensor is a current sensor and the electrical parameter is a flow of current between the electrical grid and the engine.

33. (New) The engine control system of claim 32, wherein the master control system varies the power output value to maintain the absolute value of the flow of current above 100 amps.

34. (New) An engine control system for avoiding an islanding condition, the engine control system configured to control an engine that generates power and is electrically connected to an electrical grid and a local load that consumes power, the engine control system comprising:

a sensor configured to transmit a signal indicative of the difference between the power generated by the engine and the power consumed by the load; and

a master control system configured to receive the signal and vary the power generated by the engine to maintain a difference between the power generated by the engine and the power consumed by the load.

35. (New) The engine control system of claim 35, wherein the absolute value of the difference between the power generated by the engine and the power consumed by the local load is greater than a predetermined value.

36. (New) The engine control system of claim 35, wherein the predetermined value is stored in the master control system by a user.